



The Letters of Charles Dickens: Supplement XVI

Litvack, L. (2011). The Letters of Charles Dickens: Supplement XVI. The Dickensian, 107(3), 228-244.

Published in:
The Dickensian

Document Version:
Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Queen's University Belfast - Research Portal:
[Link to publication record in Queen's University Belfast Research Portal](#)

General rights

Copyright for the publications made accessible via the Queen's University Belfast Research Portal is retained by the author(s) and / or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing these publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

Take down policy

The Research Portal is Queen's institutional repository that provides access to Queen's research output. Every effort has been made to ensure that content in the Research Portal does not infringe any person's rights, or applicable UK laws. If you discover content in the Research Portal that you believe breaches copyright or violates any law, please contact openaccess@qub.ac.uk.

The Letters of Charles Dickens:

Supplement XVI

References (at the top of each entry) to the earlier volumes of the British Academy-Pilgrim edition of *The Letters of Charles Dickens* are by volume, page and line, every printed line below the running head being counted.

The Editors gratefully acknowledge the help of the following individuals and institutions: Gavin Adams; Herman Darvik (University Archives); Sue Hodson (Huntington Library); Lars Kremers; Sharon Lindsay; Jerome P O'Connor; Phillip Pirages; Rebecca Short and Rob Baker (Royal Society of Arts); Klaus Schappert; Takashi Terauchi.

As announced in Supplement XV, minor Corrigenda is now available on the Dickens Fellowship Website (www.dickensfellowship.org/dickensian). Significant Corrigenda and Internal Corrigenda to the Supplements themselves still appear in the Supplements.

Editorial Board: Margaret Brown, Angus Easson (Editors); Malcolm Andrews; Joan Dicks; Leon Litvack; Michael Slater (Consultant Editor).

ANGUS EASSON
MARGARET BROWN

LEON LITVACK
JOAN DICKS

I, 400.10.

To JOHN HUGHES,¹ 8 MAY 1838

Text from facsimile in on-line catalogue. Victor Gulotta Collection, May 2011.

48 Doughty Street. | Tuesday May 8th 1838

Sir.

I very much regret that the number of similar engagements I have already formed, will prevent my acting as a Vice President at your next Anniversary Dinner,² but I hope to be more fortunate on another occasion.

I am Sir | Very truly Yours
John Hughes Esquire

CHARLES DICKENS

¹ John Hughes (1790-1857; DNB), author and artist: publications included *Views in the South of France...after Original Sketches by J. H.*, 1825, and *Lays of Past Days*, 1850. Father of Thomas Hughes (author of *Tom Brown's Schooldays*) and William Hughes (see Vol. I, p. 466 & nn). Friend of Richard Harris Barham, author of the *Ingoldsby Legends*, which began first to appear in *Bentley's Miscellany*, for

which Hughes and his mother supplied material. Hughes himself published in *Bentley's*, including "Walter Childe" (Canto I), *Bentley's*, vol. III (1 April 1838), pp. 433ff. CD's formality in opening and closing, on the face of it surprising between editor and contributor, arises because Hughes's contributions, like Barham's own, were transmitted directly to Bentley (*The Life and Letters of the Rev. Richard Harris Barham... By His Son*, 2 vols, 1870, II, 20).

²Not traced; possibly the Literary Fund Anniversary Dinner.

VI, 143.1.

To MISS CARDEN,¹ 7 AUGUST 1850

Text from facsimile in Swann Auction Galleries, New York, May 2011.

Devonshire Terrace | Seventh August, 1850²

Mr. Charles Dickens presents his compliments to Miss Carden, and regrets that he cannot give her the permission she asks, as it is in³ the right of the author who (he understands) has bestowed it elsewhere.

¹Unidentified.

²Address and date at foot of letter.

³"in" written above an omission mark.

VI, 579.13.

To F. O. WARD,¹ 19 JANUARY 1852

MS Phillip Pirages.

Tavistock House
Monday Nineteenth January | 1852.

My Dear Ward. I seem to be under a kind of spell when you propose anything.

I am engaged on Wednesday—with my new book² in the day, and to dine at Bayswater with Egg the Painter,³ in the evening. But I will get my Sub Editor Mr. Wills to see the invention⁴ with a view to some account of it in *Household Words*,⁵ and (as he knows Chadwick)⁶ will propose to him to be at the Board of Health⁷ at the hour you appoint.

Faithfully Yours

F. O. Ward Esquire.

CD

¹Frederick Oldfield Ward (?1815-77), writer on sanitary subjects: see Vol. IV, p. 86*n*.

²*Bleak House* (No. I published 28 Feb).

³Augustus Leopold Egg (1816-63; *DNB*), artist: see Vol. V, p. 113*n*.

⁴Not identified. Ward was particularly concerned with drainage for London and supported Sir Joseph Bazalgette: see Stephen Halliday, *The Great Stink of London: Sir Joseph Bazalgette and the Cleansing of the Victorian Metropolis*, Stroud, Glos, 1999.

⁵No account of Ward or his invention appears in *HW* during the next year, though articles by Henry Morley ("A Foe under Foot", *HW*, 11 Dec 52, VI, 289-92) and by Wills ("Clear Water and Dirty Water", *HW*, 5 Feb 53, VI, 496-7) both concern sanitation.

⁶Edwin Chadwick (1800-90; *DNB*), social reformer. CD supported his efforts for sanitary reform.

⁷The General Board of Health, established 1848, with Chadwick as Chairman; its statutory life ended, July 54. The new Board, established Aug 54, was chaired by Benjamin Hall (Vol. VII, pp. 384*nn*, 400*nn*).

VI, 686.10.

To THOMAS BATTAM,¹ 31 MAY 1852

MS Gavin Adams.

Tavistock House, London | Thirty First May 1852

Dear Sir

Pray accept my very sincere thanks for the elegant present² you have had the kindness to send me. I am glad you were amused by the Paper³ which my interesting visit to the Works⁴ over which you preside—and to the Dodo⁵—suggested. Mr. Wills had brought me such alarming reports of the indignation of the people of Stafford in behalf of their brick, and their town,⁶ that when I found myself, three weeks ago,⁷ obliged to wait at the Station there, three hours, I was not without personal apprehensions and a secret resolution never to be taken alive.

With many thanks | My Dear Sir | Very faithfully Yours
Thomas Battam Esquire. CHARLES DICKENS

¹Thomas Battam (1810-64), the art superintendant at Copeland's (formerly and later Spode's) china manufactory, at Herons Cross, Stoke-on-Trent. He claimed to be the originator of Parian Ware, developed at Copeland's under his direction: see Vega Wilkinson, *Spode-Copeland-Spode: The Works and Its People 1770-1970*, Woodbridge, Suffolk, 2002, pp. 72-4; illustrations pp. 76-84; map of the works, p. 91).

²Presumably a Parian ware figure.

³"A Plated Article", *HW*, 24 Apr 52, V, 117-21; written with Wills.

⁴In early April, when visiting Birmingham and Shrewsbury with Wills.

⁵CD's name, in "A Plated Article", for the Swan hotel, Stafford, "the extinct town-inn".

⁶The article refers to the Town Hall as a "brick and mortar" private on parade and to Stafford as "dull and dead a town as any one could desire not to see". The *Staffordshire Advertiser*, 24 Apr, quoting "A Plated Article" (*HW*, dated 24 Apr, was issued 21 Apr), defended the town against CD's strictures.

⁷Presumably on 11 May, when the Guild company of actors was travelling from

Shrewsbury to Birmingham.

VII, 66.22.

To MISS KELLY,¹ [19 APRIL, 1853]²

MS facsimile in on-line catalogue eBay, March 2011. *Address* (envelope only): Miss Kelly | Moscow Road | Bayswater.

¹Frances Maria Kelly (1790-1882); *DNB*, actress. Retired from Drury Lane 1835 and opened her own theatre at 73 Dean Street, Soho Square 1840. See further Vol. IV, p. 348*n*.

²No date mark visible on the facsimile (front only seen); the date written across side of envelope in contemporary hand.

VII, 158.9. Replaces catalogue extract.

To MR WINCKWORTH,¹ 3 OCTOBER 1853

Text from facsimile in Invaluable on-line catalogue, June 2010.

Tavistock House | Monday Third October 1853.²

Mr. Charles Dickens begs Mr. Winckworth to be so good as to fill the accompanying case of bottles;³ one with Laudanum, one with sal volatile, and one with the best powdered ginger. He also begs to have a large box—as it is to travel with, it should be strong—of the pills according to Dr. Southwood Smith's⁴ prescription which is in Mr. Winckworth's possession.

¹Of Stephen Winckworth Silver & Co., "emigrant's fitting out warehouse", 3 & 4 Bishopsgate Within: see Vol. VI, p. 182*n*.

²Address and date at foot of letter.

³CD was preparing for his European journey, 10 Oct-11 Dec, with Wilkie Collins and Augustus Egg. Laudanum was a painkiller and soporific; sal volatile (smelling salts) could be inhaled or taken in water; ginger was used for upset stomachs and bowels. These bottles were intended as a general precaution, but especially since Collins suffered from neuralgia and rheumatism. For CD's medicine chests on his two American tours, see Vol. III, p. 226 & *n*; Vol. XI, p. 448 & *n*; David Dickens & Norman Jacoby, "CD's Travelling Medicine Chest", *Dickensian*, 92 (Spring 1996), 19-24.

⁴Thomas Southwood Smith, MD (1788-1861; *DNB*), sanitary reformer: see Vol. II, p. 164*n*.

VII, 236.17. New extract ^(bb) complete letter.

To SIR JAMES EMERSON TENNENT,¹ 3 JANUARY 1854

Text from facsimiles in Christie's catalogue, Dec 1988^(aa) and Sotheby's catalogue, June 2010^(bb).

Tavistock House | Tuesday Third January 1854

My Dear Sir

I have read the draught of the article on the proposed treaty of Copyright with America,² designed to be substituted for the Sixth article of the Convention; and I consider it decidedly advantageous to English Authors, and can have no doubt of their generally receiving it in that light. I may be supposed to have a considerable interest in the question, and I am satisfied with it myself. On principle I object to any limitation whatever on an Author's right in his own works; but, as the law of England confiscates his property when his successors most^a need it,³ I have no right to quarrel with America for requiring him to establish his title to it within three months.

The provisions as to the stereotyping or printing of a book taking place in the country in which it is republished, being reciprocal, does not seem unreasonable or unfair. I have mentioned this point to my printers Messrs. Bradbury and Evans of Whitefriars, who are in a very large way of business as printers of books; and they concur with me in this opinion.

With many thanks for your courtesy, I am

My Dear Sir | Very faithfully Yours

Sir James Emerson Tennent

CHARLES DICKENS^b

¹ Sir James Emerson Tennent (1804-69; *DNB*), politician and author: see Vol. VI, p. 701*n*.

² A Treaty "for the Establishment of International Copyright" had been signed in Washington (see Vol. VI, p. 713*n*) in Feb 53; opposed by American publishers, it failed to be ratified by the Senate: see further on this and the Sixth Article, Vol. VII, p. 236, nn. 6 & 7.

³ By the Copyright Act, 1842, copyright ran for 42 years from the date of publication or seven years after the author's death, whichever was longer (see Robert L. Patten, *CD and His Publishers*, 1978, p. 19 & n. 28).

VII, 542.23.

To THE HON. ROBERT LYTTON,¹ 18 FEBRUARY 1855

MS Huntington Library.

Hotel Meurice² | Sunday Eighteenth February 1855

My Dear Mr. Lytton

I owe you many thanks for your kind remembrance. We were dining with one of the Français people³ yesterday, and could not use the tickets—only finding them when we returned home at midnight—but are not the less obliged to you. Mr. Wilkie Collins⁴ begs me to express his acknowledgements.

I hope you will go and see Frederick Lemaître⁵ in the *Trente Ans*.⁶ It is something to be attentively observed throughout, because the fineness of the latter part cannot be quite appreciated without a knowledge of the design from its beginning. So far as I know, it is the height of that art.

Very faithfully Yours

Robert Lytton Esquire

CHARLES DICKENS

¹Edward Robert Lytton (1831-91; *DNB*), diplomat, novelist and poet (as “Owen Meredith”). The only son and second child of Edward Bulwer Lytton. His diplomatic career began 1850, in Washington; he subsequently held various posts, including in Paris 1854-6. Accepted Disraeli’s invitation to be Viceroy of India 1876-80. See further Vol. VII, p. 694, n. 2.

²CD and Wilkie Collins were in Paris, 12-20 Feb.

³I.e. a member of the Théâtre Française Company; François Joseph Philoclès Regnier (1807-85), French actor: see Vol. V, p. 8n.

Collins was not well: CD asked Sir Joseph Olliffe, the physician, for advice and Collins was subjected to “stoppage of his wine and other afflictions” (Vol. VII, pp. 535, 540).

⁵Antoine Louis Prosper Lemaître, known as Frédérick (1800-76), French actor.

⁶V. Ducange, *Trente ans; ou, la vie d'un joueur*, Paris, 1827; CD described Lemaître’s performance and its effect to Forster (Vol. VII, pp. 536-7).

VII, 636.12. Replaces catalogue mention.

*To MR HUTCHINS,*¹ 31 MAY 1855

MS Lars Kremers.

Tavistock House | Thirty First May 1855.

Mr. Charles Dickens presents his compliments to Mr. Hutchins, and begs to trouble him with the enclosed draft for £5 in favor of Mrs. Burbury.² Mr. Dickens is informed by that lady that Mr. Hutchins has the goodness to receive such subscriptions.

¹This letter is the original of and replaces *To Mr Hutchings*, 1 May 1855 (Vol. VII, p. 604), the name and date misread by the catalogue source. Hutchins was clearly collecting subscriptions for Mrs Burbury (below); otherwise, unidentified.

²Mrs E.J.Burbury, miscellaneous writer; was assisted by various writers and by appeals to subscribers to support “herself and her young family” (see further Vol. VII, p. 636, n. 2). CD’s Account-book (MS Messrs Coutts) shows a payment of £5 for Mrs Burbury, 16 June.

VII, 659.9.

*To PETER LE NEVE FOSTER,*¹ 26 JUNE 1855

MS The Royal Society of Arts.

Tavistock House
Tuesday Twenty Sixth June 1855

Sir.

I beg to say in reply to your obliging letter, that I cannot have the pleasure of occupying the Vice-Presidential Chair,² which the Council have the goodness to offer to me.

I am Sir | Your faithful Servant

P. Le Neve Foster Esquire

CHARLES DICKENS

¹Peter Le Neve Foster (1809-79; *DNB*), Secretary, Society (later Royal Society) of Arts 1853-79: see further Vol. XI, p. 295*n*.

²CD had been a member of the Society since 1849 and had served as Vice-President, 1850-51.

VII, 729.21.

TO MESSRS BRADBURY & EVANS, 31 OCTOBER 1855

MS Phillip Pirages.

OFFICE OF HOUSEHOLD WORDS
Wednesday Thirty First October 1855

My Dear B & E.

I am suddenly brought to town by an anxiety of Miss Coutts's¹ which I am trying to set at rest, and shall now have to remain until over our audit.² If we can expedite it by a few days, it will be a great convenience to me, and help to my work. The accounts will be ready, I apprehend next Tuesday. How soon afterwards would it suit you to audit here and dine here as usual? Wednesday?—Thursday? Will you consider and send me round a note, naming the Earliest day that will not put you out.

Ever Faithfully

CD.

¹CD, living with his family in Paris, had returned to organise the burial of Dr William Brown, physician to Miss Coutts and husband of her companion, Hannah Brown. Dr Brown had died suddenly in Montpellier while on holiday with Miss Coutts and his wife. Miss Coutts and Mrs Brown were concerned that he be interred inside St Stephen's, Rochester Row, built by Miss Coutts. For the problems and for CD's action, see *To Miss Coutts*, 31 Oct 55 (Vol. VII, pp. 729-31 & *nn*).

²Rearranged to Thursday, 8 Nov; CD was concerned to get back to Paris and to writing *Little Dorrit* with the least possible delay.

VIII, 189.5.

To JOHN SCHOLL,¹ 17 SEPTEMBER 1856

Text from facsimile in R&R Auctions, July 2010.

Tavistock House
Wednesday Seventeenth September 1856.²

Mr. Charles Dickens begs to inform Mr. Scholl that he spoke to Mr. Scholl's man, requesting to have an estimate for a large external lamp in the fanlight of the street door, instead of the present gas-fitting in the front hall. Not having received it, Mr. Dickens thinks it may have been forgotten.

¹Engineer and gasfitter, 41 & 42 Berwick Street, Soho.

²Address and date at foot of letter.

VIII, 205.22.

To CHARLES DODGE,¹ 11 OCTOBER 1856

MS Swann Galleries, April 2010.

Tavistock House, London
Saturday Eleventh October 1856.

Dear Sir

I beg to assure you that I have received your cordial letter with much gratification, and that I have real pleasure in complying with your request by writing you these few words in return.

Faithfully Yours

Charles Dodge Esquire

CHARLES DICKENS

¹Unidentified; presumably an autograph hunter.

VIII, 319.1.

To GEORGE [?'DARLING'],¹ 22 APRIL 1857

Text from facsimile in Alexautographs catalogue, 2010.

Tavistock House, London 1 Twenty Second April, 1857

Dear Sir

My absence from London² has prevented my returning an earlier reply to your letter, and sending back your Manuscript with thanks.

I can hardly be expected to recognize the necessity of the question propounded at your Debating Society, as I may be reasonably supposed to have settled it very conclusively in my own mind. But it is extremely agreeable and gratifying to me to have so earnest a champion as yourself and to find the generous order of youth expressing itself so well, and with so strong a love of what is good and true.

Faithfully Yours

Mr. George [?Darling] Junr.

CHARLES DICKENS

¹Unidentified. Name uncertain; "Darling" possible, but not certain.

²CD was in Gravesend, 7-15 Apr, to keep "an eye on the little repairs" at Gad's Hill (*To Miss Coutts*, 9 Apr; Vol. VIII, p. 310). He was clearing off accumulated correspondence on his return to London.

VIII, 341.10.

*To T. R. EELES,*¹ 4 JUNE 1857

MS Huntington Library.

Gad's Hill Place, Higham, Kent. | Fourth June 1857

Dear Mr. Eeles

I send you enclosed, an order on Bradbury and Evans for 12 Little Dorrits.² Will you, with all convenient dispatch, half-bind 9 in my favorite red with gilt leaves, and bind the remaining 3 in any elegant and substantial way you like. When done, please send them to the Household Words office with "Books to await Mr. Dickens" written outside.

Faithfully Yours

CHARLES DICKENS

¹Thomas Robert Eeles, bookbinder of 22 Cursitor Street. In 1851 he had provided the dummy books for CD's library (Vol. VI, pp. 524-5 & *nn*, 851); the business continued to work for CD at least to 1866 (Vol. XI, p. 163).

²The final double No. of *Little Dorrit*, for June, was published 30 May 57. CD had already asked for presentation copies to be bound (Vol. VIII, pp. 327, 335).

VIII, 411.29.

*To JOHN THOMPSON,*¹ 15 AUGUST 1857

Text from facsimile on eBay, January 2011.

Gad's Hill Place
Saturday Fifteenth August, 1857²

I am particularly anxious, John, that Mr. Austin³ should have the enclosed letter⁴ to night or early tomorrow morning. It relates to the well here. We have found at last a great spring of water. I want you to take the letter down to him. Go to Ealing⁵ by the Railroad, and you will find his house about half a mile from the station. If you find him at home and get an answer, send it, or bring it, down here, any time tomorrow (Sunday.)

CHARLES DICKENS

¹ John Thompson, CD's trusted servant, in his employment since the 1830s; but see Vol. XI, pp. 262, 268.

² Address and date at foot of letter.

³ Henry Austin (?1812-61), architect and civil engineer; married Letitia Dickens 1837. See Vol. I, p. 21*n*.

⁴ To Henry Austin, 15 Aug. The water supply at Gad's Hill was a constant problem: in June the well ran dry and though now CD wrote to Austin that "we have got a famous spring", the well needed to be dug 217 ft deep and the water was raised by a horse-driven pump (Vol. VIII, p. 411, n.1).

VIII, 456.12. Replaces catalogue mention.

To SIR ALEXANDER DUFF GORDON,¹ 29 SEPTEMBER 1857

MS Huntington Library.

Gad's Hill

Tuesday Twenty Ninth September 1857

My Dear Gordon

Many thanks for your note, received here this morning. I wish the book were Lady Gordon's!² But I am afraid that a translation from M. De Wailly³—of a book appearing in a serial form in Paris—would not do for Household Words.⁴

With kind regard I Always Faithfully Yours

Sir Alexander Duff Gordon.

CHARLES DICKENS

¹ Sir Alexander Cornwall Duff Gordon (1811-72), 3rd Baronet; civil servant. He and his wife (below) were at the centre of a progressive literary and social circle (see Vol. V, p. 44*n*).

² Lady Duff Gordon, *née* Lucie [Lucy] Austin (1821-69; *DNB*), author and translator. Married Duff Gordon, 1840: see further Vol. V, p. 44*n* and Supplement IX, *Dickensian* (104), Summer 2008, p. 146*n*.

³ Armand François Léon De Wailly; novelist, and translator from English: see Vol. VIII, p. 508*n*.

⁴ Lady Duff Gordon had translated an earlier novel of De Wailly's (*Stella and Vanessa: A Romance*, 1850); no later translation by her of De Wailly appeared.

To ROBERT DRAKE,¹ 21 JANUARY 1858

MS Huntington Library.

Tavistock House, London, W.C. | Twenty First January 1858

Dear Sir

I find your note on returning from Bristol² after two or three days absence.

If you will send the sheet to me here, I will sign it and lose no time in returning it. I don't very clearly see what the Chatham Mechanics' Institution has to do with the matter of the Princess Royal's marriage;³ but the Society of Arts⁴ is so very learned in all manner of approaches to her august father,⁵ that I have no doubt it is master of the subject.⁶

Dear Sir | Faithfully Yours

Robert Drake Esquire.

CHARLES DICKENS

¹ Robert Drake, of the Chatham and Rochester Mechanics' Institution; CD was the President.

² Where CD read, 19 Jan.

³ Princess Victoria Adelaide Mary Louise (1840-1901; *DNB*), the Princess Royal, eldest child of Queen Victoria, married (25 Jan 58) Prince Frederick William of Prussia. Princess Victoria was later crown princess (1861) and Empress of Germany during Frederick's brief reign (Mar-June 1888).

⁴ The Society's full title was The Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce. Princess Victoria in Germany encouraged the industrial arts and established the Berlin Industrial Art Museum, 1881.

⁵ Prince Albert.

⁶

VIII, 512.11. Replaces catalogue mention.

To T. R. EELES, 2 FEBRUARY 1858

MS Huntington Library.

Tavistock House | Second February 1858.

Dear Mr. Eeles

I ought to have told you that I did not wish this MS¹ to be lettered with my name. Will you be so good as to have the lettering "C. Dickens" on the back, taken off, and the lettering,

Original

Manuscript

put in its place.

Faithfully Yours

CHARLES DICKENS

¹*The Peril of Certain English Prisoners*, written jointly by CD and Wilkie Collins (*HW*, Christmas No., 7 Dec 1857). The MS presented to Collins, 6 Feb (Vol. VIII, p. 517).

VII, 678.15.

To WILLIAM COX BENNETT,¹ 12 OCTOBER 1858

MS Jerome P. O'Connor.

OFFICE OF HOUSEHOLD WORDS.

Tuesday Twelfth October 1858

My Dear Sir

Will you be so good as to send a competent person down to my house at Gad's Hill [...] to Doctor the clock.³ It has suddenly left off striking—to the great discomfiture of my establishment

Faithfully Yours

W. Bennett Esquire

CHARLES DICKENS

¹William Cox Bennett (1820-95; *DNB*), miscellaneous writer and watch- and clockmaker; younger brother of John Bennett (1814-97; *DNB*), watch- and clockmaker of 65 Cheapside, with whom he worked. The brothers (born in Greenwich) founded the Greenwich Society for the Acquisition and Diffusion of Useful Knowledge. William Bennett had published poems in *HW*.

²A word (possibly "and") deleted by CD.

³Presumably the clock now in the Dickens House Museum, made by "Bennett, Cheapside, London"; it needed the Bennetts' attention on several occasions (see e.g. Vol. VIII, p. 493 & *n*; Vol. IX, p. 45-6).

VIII, 692.6. Replaces catalogue extract

To MRS WHITFORD,¹ 29 OCTOBER 1858

MS Huntington Library. *Address* (Sotheby's catalogue, July 1972): Mrs. Thomas Whitford, Belgrave,² near Leicester.³

Sheffield, Friday October Twenty Ninth 1858.

My Dear Mrs. Whitford

I received your letter at Leeds⁴ this morning, and I read it with much interest, and I hasten (in a moment's interval of rest), to reply to it.

It would have given me great pleasure to have come to see you, if such a thing had been reasonably possible. But the fatigues and occupations of the tour now drawing to a close, are so great, that from its commencement in the beginning of

August down to this time I have set foot in no friend's house and have eaten or drunk at no friend's table. The "very grand folks" and the very plain folks everywhere have been equally shut out from me. I have hurried for a few hours at a time to London or to my little country house in Kent whenever I have had a short space of repose; but I have known all other diversion from the one thing I have had to do, to be quite incompatible with it.

My mother,⁵ who is alive and well though not unshaken by Time, will will⁶ be greatly interested when I tell her of your having written to me. Letitia and her husband,⁷ I often see. They have no children, and are doing very well.

I beg to send my regard to your liege Lord, and to that most wonderful of all the prodigies I have ever heard of—the only child—who is not a prodigy.

Believe me | Faithfully Yours

Mrs. Whitford

CHARLES DICKENS

¹ Mrs Thomas Whitford: clearly an early friend of the Dickens family who had written to CD after seeing an announcement of his reading at Leicester, 4 Nov.

² A large village about 2 miles north-east of Leicester. Thomas Whitford is listed among "Gentry".

³ CD read the *Carol* in the New Music Hall on 4 Nov: see Vol. VIII, p. 692, n.3.

⁴ CD read at Leeds, 28 Oct, on his Autumn reading tour.

⁵ Elizabeth Dickens (1789-1863); she had had "a strong objection to being considered in the least old" (10 Feb 55; Vol. VII, p. 534 & n), but would shortly decline into senility.

⁶ Written twice by CD.

⁷ This suggests a particular friendship with Letitia (who married Henry Austin in 1837). For possible identification of Mrs Whitford with a Miss Urquhart, see Vol. VIII, p. 692, n.4. and Vol. I, p. 31 & nn.

IX, 118.13.

To WILLIAM HEPWORTH DIXON,¹ 7 SEPTEMBER 1850

MS Huntington Library.

GAD'S HILL PLACE.

HIGHAM BY ROCHESTER, KENT.

Wednesday Night, Seventh September 1859

My Dear Dixon

I received your note and these enclosures now returned, at the seaside. The same post brought me the enclosed from Mr. Ouvry;² you will see from it what we the Trustees³ are obliged to require (in consequence of that unlucky deed) before we can make any payment to Miss Jerrold from the fund.⁴

Always Faithfully Yours
Hepworth Dixon Esquire

CHARLES DICKENS

¹William Hepworth Dixon (1821-79; *DNB*), journalist and writer, particularly on the penal system and prisons: see Vol. V, p. 686 & *nn*.

²Frederic Ouvry (1814-81), CD's solicitor from 1856: see Vol. VII, p. 273*n*.

³The Trustees, CD, Forster and Arthur Smith, of the Douglas Jerrold Memorial Fund. Jerrold died 8 June 57. Dixon, one of the pall-bearers at the funeral (Vol. VIII, p. 352*n*), was added to the Committee for the Programme in Remembrance (Vol. VIII, p. 355) and praised W. Blanchard Jerrold's life of his father (Vol. IX, p. 9*n*). The Fund was expended in the purchase, through the Trustees, of an annuity for Mrs Jerrold and Mary Anne, her unmarried daughter, with the remainder to the survivor. However, rather than accepting the annuities, Mrs Jerrold and all her children had executed a Deed of Arrangement in July 1857, assigning the Fund to the Trustees. Under the Trust, Mary Anne received the income for life (Vol. IX, p. 85 & *nn*). Mrs Jerrold had died 6 May 59 and her two sons were apparently attempting to annul the Deed and claim a share of the capital: the Trustees could pay nothing to Mary Anne until this dispute was settled. Dixon was concerned on Mary Anne's behalf.

⁴The Deed clearly was to stand, since CD made payments of the half-yearly interest, through Dixon, to Mary Anne (Vol. IX, pp. 370, 410).

IX, 249.13. Replaces extracts.

To MESSRS L. HACHETTE ET CIE,¹ 4 MAY 1860

Text from facsimile in Pierre Bergé & associés catalogue, November 2010.

TAVISTOCK HOUSE.
TAVISTOCK SQUARE, LONDON. W.C.
Mardi 4 Mai, 1860.

Messieurs

J'ai reçu votre lettre avec beaucoup de plaisir. Je suis charmé que vous [...] ²avez entrepris la traduction de "The Tale of Two Cities", ³et que cette ouvrage soit connue en France. Voila un de mes espoirs les plus ardents, en l'écrivain.

Suivant vos instructions, j'ai disposé sur vous (par le moyen de mes banquiers) à deux jours de vue, pour deux mille francs.⁴ Veuillez accepter, Messieurs, mes remerciements et l'assurance de ma plus haute considération.

a Messrs. L. Hachette & Cie:

CHARLES DICKENS

¹Publishers, of 14 rue Pierre-Sarrazin, founded in 1826 by Louis Christophe Hatchette (1800-64); see further Vol. VII, p. 759*n*. CD had agreed terms with Hatchette for the translation of all his published novels in Jan 1856 (Vol. VIII, pp. 22-3, 39-40).

²"avez" written above word crossed out.

³The last episode appeared in *AYR*, II, 93-5, 26 Nov 59; the volume issue appeared 21 Nov. Translated as *Paris et Londres en 1793*, 1861, by Mme Loreau in Hatchette's series, "Bibliothèque des meilleurs romans étrangers".

⁴The original agreement (above) paid CD £440 for all his novels to that date;

2,000 francs was £80.

IX, 250.23. Replaces printed text.

To CHARLES DRESSER,¹ 8 MAY 1860

MS R & R Catalogue, No. 269.

TAVISTOCK HOUSE | TAVISTOCK SQUARE, LONDON.

W.C.

Tuesday Eighth May, 1860.

My Dear Sir

We will stick to the 9½ train from London, so we shall be ready to begin² the moment we arrive.³ All the other arrangements you propose so kindly, are excellent. I would not return at 8, you may be sure, but for being really obliged to do so.

Wills sends kind regard

Always Faithfully Yours

Charles Dresser Esquire

CHARLES DICKENS

¹ Charles Dresser, of Stoke, a suburb of Coventry.

² Dresser was to explain “the state of matters” (*To Dresser*, 26 Apr); possibly to do with Sir Joseph Paxton’s relations to his constituents (Paxton was one of Coventry’s two M.P.s). There had been tensions over Paxton’s voluntary absence from a presentation dinner to CD by the Coventry Institute in Dec 58 (Vol. VIII, 714-15 & *nm*). Clearly, CD considered the business important, whatever its nature.

³ CD and Wills travelled, 10 May, by the 9.30 from Euston, aiming to reach Coventry at 12.10 and returning by the 8 p.m. train.

IX, 352.21. Replaces catalogue mention.

To DUDLEY COSTELLO,¹ 27 DECEMBER 1860

Text from MS in on-line catalogue, May 2011.

OFFICE OF ALL THE YEAR ROUND.

Thursday Twenty Seventh December 1860.

My Dear Costello.

Many thanks for your capital Christmas Book,² which I have read by the fireside with the greatest pleasure. As an amiable exchange of Prisoners, I send you my Uncommercial Traveller.³

With kind regard to Mrs. Costello.⁴

Believe me ever | Faithfully Yours

CHARLES DICKENS

¹Dudley Costello (1803-65; *DNB*), former Army Officer; foreign correspondent, *Morning Herald*, 1838; foreign editor, *Daily News*, 1845. Contributed to both *HW* and *AYR*.

²*Holidays with Hobgoblins; and Talk of Strange Things*, illustrated by George Cruikshank; dated 1861, printed 1860.

³The first series of 16 articles gathered from *AYR*, published Jan 61; copies were ready by 15 Dec 60 (*To* Chapman, 5 Dec 60; Vol. IX, p. 347 & *n*). The copy, in which this letter is inserted, is inscribed "With kind regards from CHARLES DICKENS | Christmas 1860" (Vol. IX, p. 352*n*).

⁴Mary Frances, widow of J. D.Tweedy; married Costello, 23 Sep 43.

IX, 379.14.

To PETER LE NEVE FOSTER, 31 JANUARY 1861

MS The Royal Society of Arts.

OFFICE OF ALL THE YEAR ROUND.
Thursday Thirty First January 1861.

Sir

In answer to your circular letter, I beg to inform you that I have no work of the late Mr. Leslie's¹ in my possession.²

Faithfully Yours

P. Le Neve Foster Esquire

CHARLES DICKENS

¹Charles Robert Leslie (1794-1859; *DNB*, *DAB*), painter. Son of a Philadelphian clockmaker, but born in London and spent most of his life in England: see Vol. II, p. 395*n*. CD first met him mid-late 1841.

²CD in fact possessed two original works by Leslie. In 1846, Leslie painted CD in the character of Bobadil in his production of *Every Man in His Humour* (Vol. IV, p. 469 & *n*; Vol. V, p. 479; see also F. G. Kitton, *CD by Pen and Pencil*, 1890, following p. 100); in 1847, Leslie executed a grisaille of "Pickwick and Mrs Bardell", reproduced as the frontispiece in the Cheap Edn (Vol. V, pp. 63, 194, 206; it was in the 1870 sale of CD's works of art). The present whereabouts of either work unknown.

IX, 554.9. Replaces catalogue extract.

To THOMAS HEADLAND,¹ 28 DECEMBER 1861

MS Mrs Sharon Lindsay.

OFFICE OF ALL THE YEAR ROUND.
Saturday Twenty Eighth December 1861.

Dear Mr Headland

In telegraphing to Birmingham² this afternoon, please add the words:

“Please send 4 stalls for each night, to Mr. Rofe,³ Paradise Street, with Mr. D’s compliments.”

The letter has gone to Hullah.⁴ You shall take a copy of it on Monday.

Faithfully Yours

CD

¹Thomas Hughes Headland (?1806-88), Arthur Smith’s assistant; after Smith’s death (Oct 61) took over as manager of CD’s reading tours: see Vol. VIII, p. 606*n*. He proved unsatisfactory and was replaced by George Dolby for the 1866-70 readings: see Vol. XI, p. 183*n*.

²CD was in Birmingham, 30 & 31 Dec.

³Henry Rofe, 16 Paradise Street, Birmingham, engineer to Birmingham Waterworks, uncle to the Ternan sisters (Vol. VIII, p. 605*n*, where misspelt Rolfe).

⁴John Pyke Hullah (1812-84; *DNB*), composer: see Vol. I, p. 113*nn* & Vol. V, p. 208*n*. The letter’s purpose not traced; Hullah’s reply elicited a (presumably) facetious response from CD (Vol. IX, p. 555).